

Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting

MAPC Large Conference Room, 10th Floor, City Hall
3:45-5:30 p.m., June 11, 2014

Discussion Highlights & Points of Agreement:

Attendance - Plan Steering Committee:

Stacy Christie, Mitch Coffman, Peggy Elliott, Susan Estes, David Foster, Joe Johnson, Cindy Miles, James Roseboro, Gary Schmitt, Debra Miller Stevens

Attendance - Project Staff:

Stephen Banks, Dave Barber, Scott Knebel, Jess McNeely, John Schlegel, Scott Wadle

1. Welcome -

The meeting was called to order by Peggy Elliott.

2. Preferred Fiscal Strategies Exercise and Follow-up Discussion -

Staff took Committee members through a preferred fiscal strategies exercise utilizing a matrix containing five expenditure options to address the projected 2035 revenue/expenditure gap. Committee members were asked to indicate their willingness to pay increased taxes and fees by selecting one of the following five expenditure options: “less”; “none”; “some”; “more”; or “full”. The expenditure options were itemized according to the four major infrastructure categories (transportation; water/sewer/ stormwater; arts/culture/recreation; and public safety) within each of the four types of investment categories.

The scoring results of the Committee revealed several infrastructure categories where there was no dominate preference, but rather tied votes for the various revenue levels (e.g. 3 votes for “some” and 3 votes for “full”). Given this situation, two tabulations were calculated by staff ... one with a weight towards a lower level of revenues and one with a weight towards a higher level of revenues. This resulted in two scoring sheets (see attached).

The *lower weighted* revenue scoring sheet revealed a Committee preference for an overall increase in taxes and fees of about 12% to help close the \$9-10 billion expenditure gap – reducing the gap from \$10.3 billion to \$9 billion. The *higher weighted* revenue scoring sheet revealed a Committee preference for an overall increase in taxes and fees of about 30% to help close the \$9-10 billion expenditure gap – reducing the gap from \$10.3 billion to \$7.2 billion. In both of these scoring sheets, the category of ‘expanding the city’s current system of infrastructure assets’ ranked lowest. The highest ranking category in the *lower weighted* scoring sheet was the category of ‘bringing existing deficient infrastructure assets up to standard’. The highest ranking category in the *higher weighted* scoring sheet was the category of ‘ongoing maintenance/depreciation of the city’s existing infrastructure assets’.

The following is a summary of a lengthy Committee and staff discussion that followed the completion of the preferred fiscal strategies exercise:

- The currently projected annual employment and population growth rate of 1% is not sufficient to generate the additional revenues needed over the next 20 years to close the revenue/expenditure gap of \$9-10 billion.
- Different future suburban and/or urban infill growth patterns of Wichita are insufficient to close the gap in any significant way
- The Community Investments Plan has an obligation to help close the gap and be fiscally constrained. Major reductions in future infrastructure investment would close the revenue/expenditure gap but would not likely create the future Wichita we desire to be.

- A future annual employment and population growth rate closer to 3-4% is needed to generate the revenues necessary to construct the future infrastructure needs and wants of our community.
- The new Community Investments Plan needs to reflect a more proactive and positive future vision for our community that encourages accelerated rates of future job and employment growth, and establishes infrastructure investment policies/priorities that will help create that accelerated vision of future employment and population growth.
- The Plan needs to:
 - Establish a vision and the defining elements of that vision for our community for the next 20 years;
 - Identify priority areas for long-term future infrastructure investment along with specific projects and/or investments that are essential to help realize the future vision for our community.

Staff will assemble those plans that contain detailed break-outs of proposed expenditures for review by those Committee members who wish to do so.

3. Next Steering Committee Meetings - July 23rd

4. Comments from Public Attendees - None

5. Adjourned – 5:35 p.m.